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Saskatchewan

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Agriculture Development Fund

FINAL REPORT

**FORAGE QUALITY FOR THE PROCESSED ALFALFA
INDUSTRY**

19990126

**Funded by
The Agriculture Development Fund
April 2000**

Prepared by: Saskatchewan Dehydrators Association

19990124

ALFALFA VARIETY TEST REPORT
- 1999/2000 Update of Sask Forage Council Test Results -

by D.A. Pulkinen, Sask Dehy Assoc.
April 7, 2000

The attached table summarizes the latest results of Saskatchewan Forage Council's (SFC) alfalfa variety testing program in northeast Saskatchewan. The site was seeded at Tisdale in 1997. Harvests were taken in 1998 and 1999. Forage quality data was obtained only for the 1999 harvest.

The data shows that the variety Proleaf has yielded higher than Beaver in the first two years of harvest. It also is ranked among the highest in forage protein content based on the 1999 harvest; while fibre quality (NDF and ADF) is only slightly poorer than Beaver.

Proleaf has yielded exceptionally well in Alberta; ranging from 100-141% of Beaver over 1997 and 1998. In Saskatchewan, it has yielded 5-10% higher than Beaver at Saskatoon and at Outlook under irrigation. In Manitoba, it has yielded 10% higher than Beaver. The only exception where Proleaf has yielded less than Beaver has been at Swift Current. This would suggest that it is well adapted to the higher rainfall regions of the Parkbelt.

Based on its performance, it is expected to be added to Saskatchewan's recommended list for the black, gray and gray-wooded soil zones as well as for irrigation. The license to the variety is held by OSECO. Recent prices indicate Proleaf seed is approx. \$0.50/lb higher than Beaver.

Funding for the forage nutrient analysis was provided by Sask Agriculture (Agric Dev't Fund) whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

FINAL REPORT - ADF99000126
Forage Quality for the Processed Alfalfa Industry

April 7, 2000

Project Objective:

To determine genetic differences among alfalfa cultivars for quality parameters including crude protein, acid detergent fibre and neutral detergent fibre.

Project Activities:

Forage samples of the 1999 harvest from the alfalfa variety test plot at Tisdale were collected by Sask Forage Council and analyzed for the aforementioned nutrients. The results were summarized, and a report was submitted to the members of Sask Dehy Association (see attached).

Findings and Conclusions:

The findings showed that the variety Proleaf demonstrated superior forage yield and forage quality characteristics, and has consequently been included on the recommended list of alfalfa varieties suitable for the dehy industry.

1997 Alfalfa Variety Adaptation Test
Tisdale, SK.

06-Apr-00

Variety	D.M Yield - kg/ha						% of Beaver	1999			1999 Cut#1			1999 Cut# 2			1999 Total		
	1998	1999		Total	2 yr ave	Prot		NDF	ADF	Prot	NDF	ADF	Prot	NDF	ADF	Prot	NDF	ADF	
		C-1	C-2																
Proleaf	9124	3880	4998	8878	9001	104	23.3	35.4	18.0	23.3	42.4	22.9	23.3	39.4	20.7				
ABI 9141	9415	3608	4816	8424	8920	103	22.6	34.2	16.6	22.6	43.6	23.7	22.6	39.6	20.7				
SF 9001	8973	3640	4918	8558	8766	102	20.8	38.0	19.1	21.4	44.4	24.5	21.1	41.7	22.2				
Anchor	8364	4187	4863	9050	8707	101	22.9	34.6	17.9	23.2	41.6	21.5	23.1	38.4	19.8				
Quatro HR	9134	3264	4905	8169	8652	100	22.5	37.3	19.6	23.4	41.8	23.5	23.1	40.0	21.9				
97 CR1	8228	3834	4522	8355	8292	96	22.8	34.9	17.5	23.8	40.1	20.8	23.4	37.7	19.3				
Rambler	8113	4139	4259	8397	8255	96	24.1	36.7	19.7	23.2	40.4	22.8	23.6	38.6	21.2				
PVN 1207	7929	4140	4380	8520	8225	95	23.0	37.4	18.7	21.9	43.1	24.0	22.5	40.3	21.4				
Spur	8365	3482	4368	7851	8108	94	23.2	34.4	16.4	23.9	41.2	22.3	23.6	38.2	19.7				
X53V08	7696	4119	4399	8518	8107	94	22.3	36.9	18.6	23.8	39.3	20.9	23.1	38.1	19.8				
NS 3317	8160	3415	4615	8030	8095	94	21.3	38.8	20.3	22.4	43.8	24.3	21.9	41.6	22.6				
PVN 1208	8159	3558	4337	7895	8027	93	22.3	34.3	15.0	23.3	42.5	23.0	22.8	38.8	19.4				
PVN 1209	7958	3562	4402	7963	7960	92	21.0	38.1	20.4	20.9	45.2	24.9	20.9	42.0	22.9				
Haygrazer	8058	3115	4665	7780	7919	92	22.3	37.1	18.2	21.8	43.0	23.0	22.0	40.6	21.0				
MEAN	8406	3744	4604	8347	8318		22.5	36.1	18.2	22.8	42.2	23.0	22.7	39.5	20.9				
C.V. (%)	10	12	8	8	9		6.0	9.0	17.0	7.0	11.0	14.0							
LSD(0.05)	ns	642	ns	ns	190		ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns				